



Salisbury TNVR

Project #
20-528

County: Wicomico County

Number of Cats Spayed:	287	Number of Dogs Spayed:	0
Number of Cats Neutered:	260	Number of Dogs Neutered:	0

Amount Received: \$23,699	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0
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Project Synopsis:

This project targeted colonies for free TNVR in Salisbury zip codes 21801 and 21804. In total 547 cats were trapped, sterilized, and vaccinated. ALL cats within each colony were TNVR'd in order to ensure zero percent colony growth.



Project Description:

Forgotten Cats, Inc., operating as a 501c3 since 2004, works to prevent the birth and suffering of unwanted kittens by controlling the free roaming cat population through TNVR. We accomplish this mission by providing free or low-cost sterilization for caregivers of homeless cats in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Our specific services involve working with caregivers to identify ALL cats in a colony, after which we trap, transport, sterilize, recuperate, and return feral cats to caregivers. Services are provided at one of our three clinics. Friendly cats and kittens under 12 weeks old are held and placed in one of our nine off-site adoption centers. Since our inception, we have sterilized close to 135,000 cats and placed over 15,000 into loving forever homes.

In an effort to reduce intake & euthanasia at the Humane Society of Wicomico County, we conducted targeted TNVR of colonies in Salisbury zip codes 21801 & 21804. The project was started on August 29th, 2019 and it was completed on April 2nd, 2020. These zip codes were targeted because they were reported as the areas of highest intake and euthanasia for the Humane Society of Wicomico County. Based on PetSmart Charities free-roaming cat formula, we estimated there to be 4,700 free roaming cats in the target area. Throughout the project, we used the only effective TNVR protocol which involves closely working with the colony caregiver in order to trap 100% of the cats residing in the colony so that there is zero percent colony growth. In addition to reducing intake & euthanasia, this project also aimed to reduce the free roaming cat population, reduce the risk of rabies spread, and reduce complaint calls to animal control.



Summary of Approach:

This project was started immediately after the completion of our previous MDA grant which also funded TNVR in Salisbury zip codes 21804 and 21801. Through our work in the area during that project, we began to receive regular requests for help and so we were able to TNVR colony after colony through a complaint-driven approach. Already having an infrastructure in place with our resources, employees, and volunteers allowed us a quick and easy start. We created and distributed a flyer to promote our services.

August 29th 2019-April 2nd 2020: Working closely with colony caregivers, our trapper aimed to TNVR at least one colony every 2 weeks. In order to stabilize each colony, we continuously trapped until ALL cats were caught. All cats were transported to one of our facilities where they were sterilized, vaccinated (Rabies & FVRCP), received flea & parasite treatment, ear-tipped, and provided additional medical treatment if required. Feral cats were given time to recuperate before they were released to their caregiver. At the time of release, our trapper provided the caregiver with all medical records and provided education on proper colony management moving forward (winter shelters, feeding, etc.). Friendly cats and kittens under 12 weeks of age were held and placed for adoption.

Accomplishments:

- 1.) Reduced shelter intake for zip code 21801 by 67% and 21804 by 68% at the Humane Society of Wicomico County from 2018 to 2019.
- 2.) TNVR'd 547 free-roaming cats residing in Salisbury zip codes 21801 and 21804.
- 3.) We estimate this project prevented the birth of roughly 1450 kittens that would have otherwise been born.
- 4.) 120 cats were held and placed for adoption.

Lessons Learned:

- 1.) Working on large colonies that were within highly populated areas (trailer parks, town home communities, etc.), we had to focus on communication and education to ensure that ALL colony cats received TNVR services and that everyone understood the importance of spay/neuter.
- 2.) There were quite a few Salisbury cats that required extensive medical care that went beyond the funding of the grant. Through a variety of fundraisers, we were able to cover the additional medical expenses.
- 3.) Through this project we were able to fine tune our partnership with the Humane Society of Wicomico County and learned that communication is key. An example that we collaborated and saved lives while simultaneously reducing intake/euthanasia was when a resident was trapping feral cats on her property and bringing to the Humane Society for euthanasia. Kim Nock asked us to intervene. We were able to educate the homeowner about TNVR and she allowed us to trap the cats. Four of them were placed for adoption and the remaining eight were relocated to barns because we felt their lives were in danger.

Attachments:

-List of altered cats

For More Information Contact:

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**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM**

